



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Vince Leach (R-11)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Leach Introduces Legislation Restoring Integrity and Adding Transparency to Arizona Initiative Process

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Vince Leach (R-11) has introduced legislation ([HB 2404](#)) that will strengthen the integrity of Arizona's initiative process by making several substantive reforms with regard to how ballot-qualifying signatures are gathered.

“Simply put, Arizonans have lost confidence in our initiative process,” said Representative Leach. **“Far from being a citizen-driven form of direct democracy, special interests have hijacked our initiative process and made it rife with fraud, forgery, and fabrications.”**

“HB 2404 leaves the initiative process intact as a legislative tool for Arizonans, and it restores integrity to the process by adding some much needed accountability and transparency.”

Reforms in the bill include:

- Removes the incentive for fraud and forgery by ending the practice of paying petition circulators per signature.
- Requires initiative campaign committees to file an affidavit with the Secretary of State's office if they intend to pay petition circulators and makes them liable for violations committed by their paid circulators.
- Requires petition circulators to complete an online circulator training class.
- Requires petition circulators to undergo a background check and makes ineligible any circulator who has been convicted of a criminal offense involving fraud, forgery, or identity theft within the last five years, has had a civil or criminal penalty imposed for an election law violation within the last five years, or has been convicted of a felony and has not had their civil rights restored.
- Requires the monthly submittal of collected signatures to ensure accurate counting and review.

- Instructs the Secretary of State to create a dedicated fund for administering and maintaining the integrity of the initiative and referendum process.
- Clarifies an area of law concerning who may bring an action to challenge the validity of an initiative or referendum measure.

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